

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 24, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Randy Scott – Pentecostals of South Lake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

President Hardaway read a letter from Salvation Army thanking everyone involved with sponsoring children for the 2016 Angel Tree program.

President Hardaway read a letter announcing the election of Matthew Vasel as President of the FOP Lodge 168. The purpose of the correspondence is to inform the Town Council that Mr. Vasel will serve as a spokesman for all matters related to the FOP Lodge 168.

The Town of Merrillville will honor Black History Month in February. There will be acknowledgement on the digital sign in front of Town Hall for the entire month.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated January 24, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017. Mr. Bushemi commented on specific amendments to be incorporated into the meeting minutes. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve including the amendments and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report. Mr. Pettit spoke about the deteriorating conditions of the railroad tracks located at 62nd and Taft St. Mr. Pettit requested that Mr. Bushemi send a letter to the Railroad in an effort to have the necessary repairs done correctly, as this has been an ongoing issue. Discussion followed.

Mr. Spires discussed the street paving project and said that any roads considered very poor by the Road Asset Management plan will take priority this year. Mr. Spires continued to provide an overview of the project details including funding for the project.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron said there will be a Town Council Workshop on February 15th at 6 p.m. to discuss the Planning & Building Directors duties.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Chief Yerga announced that there is a Citizen-Taxpayer Resident Board Member position opening for the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory Board. Interested parties can drop off resumes at the Clerk Treasurer's Office (Attention Chief Ed Yerga) until March 31st at 3 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca said they are working on the 2017 Spring/Summer Park brochure and booking for the upcoming summer events.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron attended the Lake County Solid Waste meeting and learned of some available grants. Lake County Solid Waste is now located at their Hammond office. Mrs. Barron announced that she is the new Lake County Solid Waste President. Mr. Lake said that the Stormwater Board recently approved a contract with Christopher Burke Engineering to conduct preliminary engineering design to serve the Meadowdale area. He went on to provide the latest Stormwater updates. Mr. Lake announced that the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center will host a seminar on Stormwater Solutions and Low Impact Development, on February 16th from 12-1 p.m.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-01: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, amending Ordinance 16-38 and pay for employees of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana for the calendar year 2017. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion among the Town Council took place regarding the Commissioners Tax Sale for the Old Mill parcel.

Mr. Minchuk referenced the open invitation letter from Matthew Vasel acting President and spokesman of the FOP Lodge 168. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to reach out to this open invitation to see what the wishes are. Discussion followed regarding this matter. The motion dies due to lack of a second motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, January 26, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Police Commission meeting, February 3, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Coffee with a Cop, February 3, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Dunkin Donuts, 2050 W. 81st Avenue.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, February 7, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, February 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Workshop, February 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, February 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council Workshop, February 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer